

REMARKS

The description has been amended so as to overcome the Examiner's objection.

In view of the Examiner's rejection of claims 1 - 4, the following comments and/or amendments are made:

1. Concerning the objection that there is no second multiplexing device in the independent claim 1 it is noted that a dependent claim 5 has been added which includes a second multiplexing device..

2. The terms can never be used “(line 12)” and “cannot be used” have been changed and the phrase “wherein both ranges may overlap” has been deleted.

The formula has been corrected and the phrase ($m = 1$) has been changed to ($m + 1$).

The explanation of \ddot{U}_{2c} has been introduced in claim 1. A_{1f} and A_{2f} are low end values which are eliminated in the overflow block.

c refers to the coding, for example, K_c is the coding of a coding device K .

It is noted for the method defined in claim 1 to be totally complete, that is, to fulfill its purpose, the steps presented in the added claim 5 are necessary. These steps were originally included in claim 1 of the German and the international application, but were omitted in the US application because, during the prosecution of the international application, a substitute description of claim 1 was submitted which was meant to represent only part of claim 1 but was assumed in the preparation of the US claims to represent claim 1 in its entirety. The final steps of claim 1 omitted are included in added claim 5. Basis for these steps is found on page 10 of the description.

Instead of being covered by the dependent claim 5, these steps could also be added to claim 1 as the inventor feels they are really needed for the method of claim 1 to be complete.

With claim 5 dependent on claim 1 (or the subject matter of claim 5 added to claim 1), there is also a second multiplexing device so that also the objection to "first" multiplexing device should be overcome.

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested and their allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "K. Bach".

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